

NEWS RELEASE

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Carlinville Chiropractor Sentenced for Mail Fraud

Springfield, Illinois -- The U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Jan Paul Miller, announced that Thomas M. Brown, age 37, of Carlinville, Illinois, was sentenced today to a term of four months in prison to be followed by four months of home detention for mail fraud related to the submission of fraudulent bills to private insurance companies, Medicaid, and Medicare. U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott furthered ordered that Brown pay restitution in the amount of \$53,267.72 and serve three years supervised release following confinement. Brown is scheduled to report to the federal Bureau of Prisons on August 15, 2005.

Brown entered pleas of guilty on February 23, 2005, to two counts of mail fraud. Thomas Brown was licensed by the State of Illinois in May 1996 as a Doctor of Chiropractic and operated Brown Chiropractic Clinic located at 490 West Side Square in Carlinville. During court proceedings, Thomas Brown admitted that although his wife, Amy Brown, had graduated from Logan College of Chiropractic, she did not obtain a valid license to practice in the State of Illinois. Nevertheless, beginning in early 1997 and continuing to at least 2002, Thomas Brown admitted that Amy Brown began seeing patients at the Brown Chiropractic Clinic as if she were licensed to practice and performed services on patients including back manipulations and related therapies. Thomas and Amy Brown then billed these services to Medicare, the Illinois Department of Public Aid (Medicaid), and to private insurance companies as if Thomas Brown was the provider of the services.

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The charges are the result of an investigation by the Central Illinois Health Care Fraud Task Force which includes agents of the Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), United States Postal Inspection Service, the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Illinois Department of Public Aid. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bradley K. Hart of the Illinois Attorney General's Office and Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick D. Hansen prosecuted the case.

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